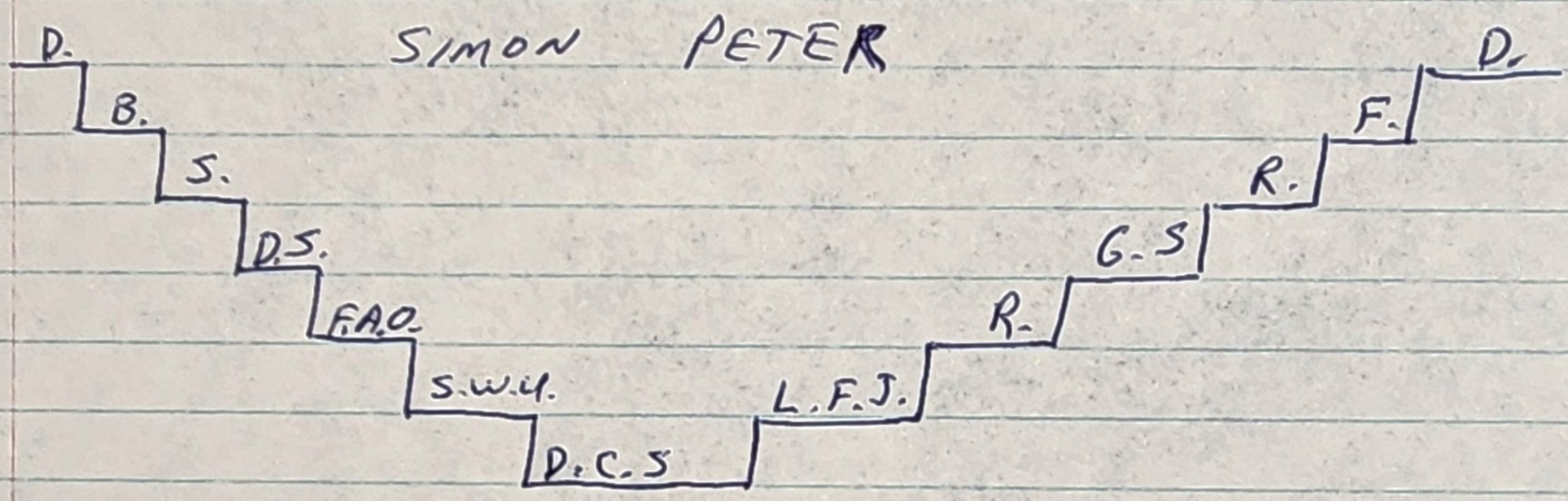
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A Good man's Fall and Return

The man was Simon Peter. Let us note the downward steps in his fall and the upward steps in his return. Here is a practical lesson for every Christian:



His Fall

D. 1. He doubted Matt 14:22-31 Turn to pg 21

As he walked on the sea, his faith weakened; he doubted; he began to sink.

Do we have any doubts of our faith.

It is necessary that our faith remain strong. Heb 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

B. 2. He boasted Mark 14:27-31 turn to pg 66

Peter said, "I will not deny thee." He boasted of his loyalty. We may say that we will not do a certain thing, but (I Cor 10:12) "wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

IS THE GROUND UNDER YOUR FEET FIRM

S. 3. He slept Mark 14:32-42 Turn to pg 66-67

This was physical sleep ✱ Today many are spiritually asleep and God calls on them

to awake Eph 5:14

Wherefore he saith, ~~Arise~~ Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

The sleeper is helpless. There is no need to call on him to pray, to read, to preach, or to lend a helping hand, for he is asleep.

When someone is calling for help, are we asleep and can not hear him?

D.S. 4. He drew his sword Mark 14:43-47 turn to pg 67

Facing the multitude, he drew his sword, in the defense of Christ. It was a rash act.

Christ cannot be defended with any sword other than the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.

Heb 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and ~~marrow~~ marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

FAO 5. He followed afar off Lk 22:54

Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priests house. And Peter followed afar off.

Bible as the light

This was after Jesus was taken prisoner. No man can follow Christ afar off for long without finally losing sight of him. We should follow as close to Jesus as possible.

Matt 16:24

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

SWH 6. He sat with unbelievers Luke 22:55

And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them.

fads of the times

Evil influences overcame him. Evil associations corrupt good morals. I Cor 15:33

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

If Peter had been in the presence of others, it might have been different.

DCS 7. He then denied, cursed, & swore Matt 26:69-74

turn to pg 40-41

He had fallen. He had reached the state which the Lord has warned us against—

Matt 26:41

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

II Pet 1:10

wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

HIS RETURN

LFJ 1. a look from Jesus penetrated him Lk 22:61

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

The thought that Jesus is watching us should have a sobering effect upon us

Heb 4:13

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest

in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Prov 15:3

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

R. 2. He remembered the words of Jesus

Matt 26:75

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

A remembrance of Christ's words will lift us up; forgetfulness of them will pull us down. Jesus said to the lukewarm church at Laodicea, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent." Rev 2:5

Every fallen person needs to remember —
A. How he once lived a better life.
B. the words of Jesus.

G.S. 3. He became possessed with godly sorrow

Lk 22:62

And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

He wept bitterly. This was not worldly sorrow, for the things of the world did not produce it. It came because he realized what he had done to Jesus.

R. 4. He repented. We know that he did, for godly sorrow works it.

II Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

The living New Testament Recaptured ✓

The sorrow of the man who is not a Christian is not the sorrow of true repentance and does not prevent eternal death.

Some say that they are Christians but do not act like it.

His (Peter's) life indicated it. He brought forth fruits meet for repentance. (Matt 3:8)

F. 5. He was ~~a~~ faithful. He was not sinless, for Paul later rebuked him.

Gal 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. — Circumcision?

But he continued in the christian race and was faithful unto death.

This is essential.

Rev 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

D. 6. He died for Christ. Jesus prophesied that Peter would die a martyr's death.

John 21:18-19 Turn to pg 148

According to secular history it came to pass that way. Peter was no longer afraid. He fearlessly and heroically preached the gospel. He died for his faith.

Conclusion

Death is not the end of man's influence

Rev 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM.

~~Human influence~~